

## **CALL for ARTISTS**

### **Request for Qualifications**

#### **Project Title: Mural Honoring the History of Montana Women as Community Builders**

**Project Overview:** The Capitol Complex Advisory Council (CCAC) Women's Mural Subcommittee seeks applications from artists for a commission to create a public mural/large painting honoring the historical contributions of women as community builders to be located in the Montana Capitol in Helena, Montana. The qualifications of artists who apply will be reviewed by members of the CCAC Women's Mural Subcommittee's selection panel and finalists will be invited to submit site-specific proposals. The CCAC Women's Mural Subcommittee's selection panel will select one artist to be awarded the commission.

**Application Deadline:** To be considered, responses to this request for qualifications must be received **online** by the CCAC Women's Mural Subcommittee no later than 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time on **July 13, 2012**.

**Eligibility:** This project is open to all qualified artists 18 years and older and who are U. S. Citizens.

**Budget:** Total commission up to \$35,000. The commission includes but is not limited to: artist fee, materials, research costs, all travel expenses, per diem, shipping, and insurance.

The artist is not responsible for the costs of signage, lighting, framing, or protective Plexiglas installation.

**Project Background:** The mural/large painting will demonstrate artistic excellence and be an original work. It will be prominently located in the Montana State Capitol (built 1899-1902, east and west wings added 1909-1912), the grandest and most important public building in Montana. Esteemed artists such as Edgar S. Paxson, Ralph E. DeCamp, F. Pedretti and Sons, and Charles M. Russell, have work displayed in the Capitol. The collection in the Capitol represents some of the finest public art in our country. Each year thousands of Montana children and adults tour the Capitol and take with them powerful, enduring images of the people and events that shaped their state. Dedication of this mural will coincide with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women's suffrage in Montana – November 2014 – greatly increasing public exposure to the mural.

More information about the Montana State Capitol is available through the [Montana Historical Society](#).

The 2011 Montana State Legislature passed [Senate Bill 59](#) allowing the CCAC to form a subcommittee for the creation and placement of a mural to honor the historical contributions of women as community builders. A portion of the text reads as follows:

Whereas, the art work decorating the Capitol conveys a narrative of the history of Montana and the significance of its government; and

Whereas, this ground we call Montana, on which Native American women met women from Europe, Asia, and Africa, bears the marks of generations of women's labor visible in the remains of tipi rings, homestead gardens, in the presence of one-room schools and university classrooms, in the storefronts of small businesses, and in the offices of corporations; and

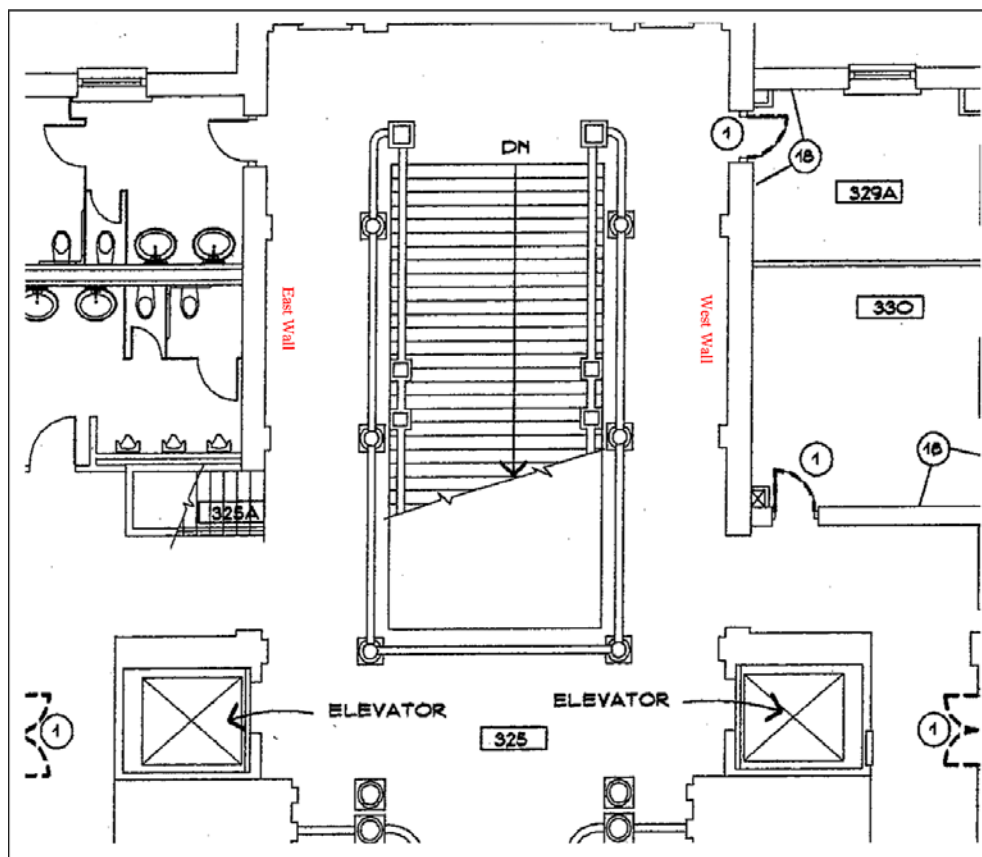
Whereas, we know our culture through the stories of women like Pretty Shield, Mourning Dove, Dorothy Johnson, and Mildred Walker, through the beadwork, star quilts, pasties, and povitica made by thousands of women in homes across the state, and through the dozens of languages spoken by mothers to children on reservations and in immigrant communities that formed the fabric of Montana; and

Whereas, women in communities across Montana have pioneered the social institutions we now consider a part of community life because they stepped outside domestic roles to found libraries, museums, theaters, parks, playgrounds, schools, shelters, hospitals, labor unions, and social clubs; and

Whereas, women in Montana fought for and won the right to vote in 1914, six years before the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the U. S. Constitution, helped to send the first woman in American history to the U. S. Congress, have served and continue to serve in every branch of local, state, and tribal government, and have eloquently represented views across the entire spectrum of American politics; and

Whereas, with few exceptions, this story of Montana's past is not represented in the Capitol's art and a mural commemorating Montana women's contribution to the history and government of the state would enrich and more accurately tell Montana's story to its citizens and visitors alike.

**Location:** The mural/large painting will be located on either the east or west wall of the third floor under the barrel vault in the Montana State Capitol in Helena, Montana. The wall is 145 inches long and 80 inches high. It is up to the artist to determine the size of the mural. The mural will not be painted directly on the wall. The painting will be a long-term fixture in the Montana Capitol, placed for 50 years and subject to renewal by the Legislature. The painting must be durable, stable, low maintenance, and appropriate for the light, temperature, and high volume of pedestrian traffic at this site. Photos of the site are available on the [CCAC website](#).



The above image is of the third floor of the Montana State Capitol Building. The locations for the mural are marked as the East Wall and West Wall. The selected finalist, in conference with the project historian and the CCAC Women's Mural Subcommittee, will select which wall will be used.

### Timeline

This schedule is contingent upon funding for this project, and may be changed at any time.

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| May 25, 2012          | RFQ announced and on-line application opens  |
| July 13, 2012         | Deadline: RFQ response must be received online by 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time  |
| August 17, 2012       | Finalists notified.  |
| September 12-13, 2012 | Finalists interviewed by the selection panel. Finalists receive \$1200 stipend.  |
| September 17, 2012    | Selected artist notified of award  |
| November 1, 2012      | Anticipated date for execution of contract   |
| Nov 2012 – Nov 2013   | Art production and completion. Installation of the mural will be coordinated with the artist, the General Services Division, and the Montana Historical Society. |

**Budget:** The funding for this project will be provided solely by private donations. No state funds will be used.

**Mural Criteria:** [Senate Bill 59](#) dictates specific criteria for the mural/large painting:

- Must portray women in a manner that reflects a historical theme honoring Montana women as community builders in diverse roles, such as the center of the family, mothers, grandmothers, business leaders, educators, health care providers, and scientists
- May not portray actual historical women, but must portray anonymous unsung heroines
- Must be created in an artistic style consistent with the genre of artwork already in the Capitol

**Submission Requirements:** Please note: This RFQ is the first step in the selection process.

**Stage One (RFQ):** The CCAC Women’s Mural Subcommittee’s selection panel will evaluate all Requests for Qualifications (RFQ) submissions and select finalists.

**Stage Two (RFP):** The finalists will be asked to respond to a Request for Proposal (RFP) by submitting detailed project descriptions and site-specific, to-scale, color renderings of their proposed paintings. Finalists will be strongly encouraged to visit the site for the mural prior to the submission of their proposals. Finalists will receive a \$1200 stipend.

**Stage Three:** The selection panel will select one submission from all of the requested proposals to be awarded the commission.

**Selection Criteria:** The selection panel will select the artist based on the following criteria:

- Artistic Quality:
  - excellence in figurative and narrative painting, demonstrating a level of detail appropriate for viewing from as close as two feet.
  - incorporates a knowledge of Montana history into the final proposal.
  - creativity.
- Ability: the artist’s ability to carry out the commission, to keep the project within budget, and to complete and install the work on schedule.
- Value: the quality and scope of the proposed work in relation to the commission paid to the artist.
- Durability of the Work: permanence, lightfastness, and durability of materials for the high volume of pedestrian traffic and natural light in the location. It is the artist’s responsibility to

ensure that all artwork meets safety standards, and adheres to building codes and other state regulations. Artwork must be durable and require minimal maintenance.

- Collaboration and Coordination: willingness of the artist to consult with reference historian, members of the CCAC Women's Mural Subcommittee, building maintenance staff, Montana Historical Society staff, and others to assure smooth integration of the artwork into the site and to make necessary adjustments in relation to building codes and other issues.

The CCAC Women's Mural Subcommittee reserves the right to reject any and all applications.

### Applications:

To be considered for this commission, artists must prepare and submit their responses to this request for qualifications by 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time, July 13, 2012. Artists are required to include the following items online **only** through [Slideroom.com](https://ccacmuralproject.slideroom.com/#/Login). To begin the application process, enter the portal to Slideroom.com by clicking here:

<https://ccacmuralproject.slideroom.com/#/Login>. Artists will need to create a login profile by offering an email address and password. The link to the application process will be sent to your email. You will be guided through a series of questions and uploads of your media and documents. You can save and exit at any point and return to finish as often as needed. A fee of \$10.00 will be charged at the end to process and archive your application. Be sure to submit your application. You will receive a confirmation message upon successful submission. All technical questions should be referred to [support@slideroom.com](mailto:support@slideroom.com) or visit their FAQ's website at: <https://slideroom.zendesk.com/home>. All questions about the mural project should be directed to the CCAC Women's Mural Subcommittee. Contact information can be found at their website: <http://ccac.mt.gov/>

1. A short letter of interest – no more than one page in length. The letter should address:
  - a. The preliminary concept or potential approach for creating site-specific public art for the Montana State Capitol.
  - b. How your work is or could be connected to the themes of the project.
2. 10 digital images of relevant past work:
  - a. Limit images to artwork created in the past 10 years.
  - b. Do not submit proposals or preliminary sketches unless your proposal has been accepted and/or is in progress for another project.
3. A current resume – no more than two pages in length.
  - a. Limit your art project list to work completed in the past 10 years.
4. Names, titles, and phone numbers for three professional references who can attest to:
  - a. Success of past projects.
  - b. Qualifications and ability to complete work on time.
  - c. Ability to work with building maintenance staff, museum staff, reference historian, and commissioning organization.
5. Description of techniques and materials to ensure longevity of artwork.